

1 CLAIMS

- Sub B22
1. Apparatus for anchoring a first conduit to a second conduit, the apparatus comprising an inflatable device for engaging with the first conduit, wherein the inflatable device is inflatable to facilitate anchoring of the first conduit to the second conduit.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first conduit is an expandable conduit.
- Sub A7
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the first conduit comprises any type of expandable conduit that is capable of sustaining plastic and/or elastic deformation.
4. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the first conduit comprises an expandable liner, casing or the like.
5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the second conduit comprises a liner, casing, borehole or the like.
6. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the inflatable device comprises an inflatable balloon-type portion coupled to a ring.
7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the inflatable device includes an expander device.

Sub 27 1 ~~8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the~~
2 ~~expander device is telescopically coupled to the~~
3 ~~inflatable device, so that when the expander device is~~
4 ~~moved a certain distance, the inflatable device is~~
5 ~~deflated and subsequently moves with the expander~~
6 ~~device.~~

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8 9. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the
9 expander device is releasably attached to the
10 inflatable device.

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12 10. Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the
13 expander device is releasably attached to the
14 inflatable device using a latch mechanism.

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16 11. Apparatus according to any preceding claim,
17 wherein the inflatable device is located within the
18 expandable conduit.

Sub 18 19
20 12. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 11,
21 wherein the inflatable device is coupled at or near an
22 upper end of the expandable conduit, or at or near a
23 lower end of the expandable conduit.

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25 13. Apparatus according to any preceding claim
26 wherein the inflatable device is inflated to expand the
27 expandable conduit whereby the expandable conduit
28 contacts the second conduit, thereby providing an
29 anchor.

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1 14. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the
2 expandable conduit is provided with a slotted portion
3 to facilitate expansion.
4

5 15. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 12,
6 wherein the inflatable device is inflated whereby a
7 portion thereof directly contacts the second conduit to
8 provide an anchor.

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Sub 27
10 ~~16. A method of anchoring a first conduit to a second~~
11 ~~conduit, the method comprising the steps of providing a~~
12 ~~first conduit, providing an inflatable device in~~
13 ~~contact with the first conduit, running the first~~
14 ~~conduit and inflatable device into the second conduit,~~
15 ~~and subsequently inflating the inflatable device to~~
16 ~~facilitate anchoring of the first conduit to the second~~
17 ~~conduit.~~

18

19 17. A method of anchoring an expandable conduit to a
20 second conduit, the method comprising the steps of
21 providing an expandable conduit, running the first
22 conduit into the second conduit, passing an inflatable
23 device into the conduit, and subsequently inflating the
24 inflatable device to facilitate anchoring of the
25 expandable conduit to the second conduit.

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Sub 27
27 18. A method according to claim 16 or claim 17,
28 wherein the method includes one, some or all of the
29 additional steps of inserting an expander device into
30 the expandable conduit, operating the expander device
31 to expand the expandable conduit, deflating the
32 inflatable device, and removing the expander device

1 and/or the inflatable device from the expandable
2 conduit and/or the second conduit.
3
4 19. A method according to any one of claims 16 to 18,
5 wherein the method includes one, some or all of the
6 additional steps of attaching an expander device to the
7 inflatable device, operating the expander device to
8 expand the expandable conduit, re-attaching the
9 expander device to the inflatable device, deflating the
10 inflatable device, and removing the expander device
11 and/or the inflatable device from the expandable
12 conduit and/or second conduit.

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